

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 8, 2003

MPDC ANNOUNCES GANG INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP

In response to recent gang-related violence in Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan and nearby communities, the MPDC has joined with other government agencies, community leaders and community-based organizations, such as the Columbia Heights/Shaw Collaborative and the Latin American Youth Center, to establish a Gang Intervention Partnership focusing on stopping gang violence. The goal of the Gang Intervention Partnership is to bring down gang violence through a combination of enforcement, intervention and prevention strategies. Law enforcement efforts are focusing on the identification, apprehension, arrest and prosecution of individuals actively involved in gang violence. Personnel from the Third and Fourth Police Districts, as well as the MPDC's Gang Intelligence Section, Office of Youth Violence Prevention and Latino Liaison Unit are leading the enforcement efforts. Intervention efforts include enhanced information sharing among Partnership members and community-based conflict resolution and mediation targeting active gangs and gang members. Chief Ramsey has assigned several members (most of whom are bilingual in English and Spanish) to work directly with the Partnership and the community to carry out gang violence reduction strategies over the next several weeks. The Partnership is operating out of the Fourth District Substation, located at 750 Park Road, NW.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2003 BRINGS TOGETHER POLICE AND COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT DC

With cooperation from the weather, thousands of DC residents joined their neighbors and neighborhood police officers this past Tuesday in celebrating the 20th National Night Out against crime. In Benning Terrace in Southeast, hundreds of residents joined local community leaders in a symbolic burial not only of crime, but also of the label "Simple City," which many residents feel does not reflect the vibrancy and potential of the neighborhood. Outside Ludlow Taylor Elementary School in Northeast, residents and police (including the MPDC Mounted Unit, Training Academy and alcohol enforcement team) held a cookout to celebrate their progress in tackling crime and disorder problems using the "Partnerships for Problem Solving" process. On Mount Pleasant Street in Northwest, a block party allowed police and residents to discuss the recent gang-related violence in nearby communities. At Guy Mason Recreation Center in Northwest, they played softball, and in the 500 block of Hobart Street, NW, it was flag football—good-natured competition in a show of unity against crime. With the theme of "Building Partnerships for Safer Neighborhoods," DC's celebration of NNO included dozens of events across all seven police districts. At the kickoff ceremony at Fort Stanton Recreation Center in Southeast, Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Councilmember Sandy Allen, and community leaders Addie Cooke, Gladys General and David Bowers all reminded residents that crime prevention is not a one-night event, but rather a 365-day-a-year commitment.

① Read the complete news release, which lists all of the Partnership members, at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2246>

① MPDC officers did arrest two suspects in an apparently gang-related shooting this past week in the 1700 block of Columbia Road, NW. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2241>

① The MPDC continues to seek information from the community on the persons responsible for recent gang-related shootings that have occurred in different parts of the city. Individuals are reminded that the Department now offers a reward of \$25,000 for information that leads to an arrest and conviction in any unsolved homicide in DC.

① Chief Ramsey extends his sincere thanks to all community members and police personnel who helped to make National Night Out 2003 in DC such a success.

① The MPDC is seeking photographs, videotapes, programs, flyers and other materials pertaining to this year's NNO celebration, for possible inclusion in the District's post-project report to the National Association of Town Watch. If you have materials, please contact Kevin Palmer, MPDC Office of Corporate Communications, at (202) 727-4731 or via e-mail to km Palmer@mpdc.org.

NEW REGIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS ANNOUNCED

Mayor Williams joined Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and leaders of Maryland and Virginia this past week to announce new cooperative efforts to share information and other resources in the fight against terrorism. Under the information-sharing initiative, the MPDC would be one of more than 30 public safety agencies in the region invited to share authorized data with one another through a secure Internet-based Justice Information System, according to Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Margret Nedelkoff Kellems. Information sharing is just one element of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), which is designed to enhance the ability of first responders and public safety officials to secure critical infrastructure and respond to potential acts of terrorism in selected urban areas, including the Washington, DC area. The DHS created the Office of National Capitol Region Coordination (ONCRC) to oversee and coordinate Federal programs and domestic preparedness initiatives for state, local and regional authorities in the National Capital Region, which includes DC, Maryland and Virginia.

AGENCY BEGINS PUBLISHING DECISIONS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

The Office of Citizen Complaint Review (OCCR), an independent DC agency that receives, investigates, and resolves police misconduct complaints filed by the public against MPDC officers, has begun publishing the agency's decisions on its website, www.oocr.dc.gov. OCCR's first 11 decisions are currently available, and all future decisions will be published as they are issued. By the end of the year, OCCR expects that approximately 30 decisions will be available online. OCCR decisions are issued by independent complaint examiners, who have been approved by OCCR's governing body, the Citizen Complaint Review Board. There are currently 17 complaint examiners, who are distinguished attorneys who live in the District, and who work, or have worked in, government, non-profit organizations, private firms, and academia. To reach their decisions, complaint examiners review OCCR's investigative reports, hold evidentiary hearings when necessary, and apply the rules governing officer conduct.

NEWS & NOTES

Smooth Operator Results. The MPDC issued more than 17,000 traffic citations during the latest "wave" of the regional anti-aggressive driving campaign. Details on Smooth Operator, including the dates of "Wave IV" in August, are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm>.

Property Viewing in 3D. Third District detectives will hold a viewing of suspected stolen items from a series of recent burglaries in the community, on Saturday, August 16, from 9 am to 5 pm, in the 3D Community Room, 1624 V Street, NW. If you were a burglary victim and think your property may have been recovered, contact Detective David Swinson at (202) 673-6914 or at dswinson@mpdc.org via e-mail.

Latino Cultural Fair & Town Hall. Mayor Williams and the Office on Latino Affairs are sponsoring this citywide event on Thursday, September 18, from 5-8 pm, at Cardozo High School, 1300 Clifton Street, NW. More information at (202) 671-2825.

- ① For background on the USAI program in the DC area, visit the DHS website at:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=47&content=1162>

- ① Read the OCCR news release at:
http://oocr.dc.gov/newsroom/2003/august/08_05_03.shtm
- ① Detailed information on the citizen complaint process, including how to file a complaint, can be found on the MPDC website:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/citizencomplaint.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 8/8/03)

- 2003: 157
- 2002: 147
- % Change: +6.8%

Arrests (week ending 8/2/03)

- Total: 895
- Drugs: 114
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 36
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 18

Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/6/03)

- Total: 1,176
- August: 35

Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/8/03)

- 2003: 38
- 2002: 36
- % Change: +5.5%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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